

App. No. 10/522,887
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Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph starting on line 1 of page 9 of the specification with the following:

Growth characteristics and in vitro oxidative stress tolerance of transgenic lines ~~was were~~ evaluated ~~new~~. The transgenic lines Godawari 8 and Salween 2 showed higher levels of SOD activity and SOD protein when compared to controls as indicated in (FIG. 1a) and the table below.

Paraquat Conc. (μM)	SOD Activity (Units/mg protein)						% Increase	
	Means			Standard Deviation				
	TP309	Salween 2	Godawari 8	TP309	Salween 2	Godawari 8	Godawari 8	Salween 2
0 μM	0.5365	0.8	1.05	0.095	0.055	0.0485	95.71	49.11
5 μM	0.6808	0.8229	0.934	0.016	0.053	0.0205	37.19	20.87
50 μM	0.6884	0.7069	0.904	0.037	0.256	0.0114	31.32	2.69
200 μM	0.9545	0.6849	1.05	0.044	0.046	0.042	10.01	-28.25
500 μM	0.883	0.6478	1.706	0.117	0.093	0.101	93.20	-26.64
1000 μM	0.839	0.6756	1.345	0.041	0.027	0.045	60.31	-19.48

As shown in the above table, the transgenic variety produced 30-95% increase in SOD activity as compared to controls. In addition, [[C]]catalase levels were upregulated in the transgenic lines Godawari 8 that had higher level of SOD activity (FIG. 1b). Conductance measurement reflective of oxygen radical scavenging abilities shows greater protection in case of transgenic Godawari and Salween, representing chloroplast environment shows healthier chloroplast in case of the transgenic Godawari 8 even under Methylviologen (Paraquat) treatment, when compared with control plants (FIG. 1c). The presence of transgenic MnSOD activities had enhanced tolerance to Methylviologen and had increased growth rates.